

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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UNCLAS BANGKOK 13635

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG TH

SUBJ: NEW PETROLEUM CONCESSIONS TO BE OPEN FOR BIDS

SUMMARY:

CHIEF MINERAL FUELS DIV: DEPT. OF MINERAL RE-SOURCES TOLD EMBOFF THAT IN ABOUT ONE MONTH THAILAND WILL INVITE COMPETITIVE BIDDING ON CONCESSIONS FOR PETROLEUM EXPLORATION ONSHORE IN THE NORTHEAST OF THAILAND, AND OFFSHORE IN THE TWO REMAINING BLOCKS LOCATED LESS THAN 200 METERS UNDER WATER ON THE ANDAMAN SEA. END SUMMARY

1. IN APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH THAILAND PLANS TO OFFER PETROLEUM CONCESSIONS IN ALL OF THE NORTHEAST OF THAILAND. THE AREA THAT WILL BE OPEN FOR CONCESSION STRETCHES FROM THE LAO BORDER AS FAR WEST AS THE WESTERN BORDER OF THE THAI PROVINCES OF/ LOEI, PETCHABUN, SARABURI AND NAKHORN RATCHASIMA. THIS AREA HAS ALREADY BEEN SUB-DIVIDED INTO 289 SQUARE BLOCKS EACH APPROX. 650 SQ. KILOMETERS IN AREA. BIDS FOR PETROLEUM EXPLORATION CONCESSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR A PERIOD OF 60 DAYS FROM THE INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT. NO CONCESSION TO ANY ONE BIDDER MAY EXCEED 10,000 SQ. KILOMETERS.

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2. IN ADDITION, ANY OTHER ONSHORE AREA IN THAILAND THAT

HAS NOT BEEN SUBDIVIDED FOR CONCESSION, AS PREVIOUSLY CONCEDED, WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR CONCESSION ON AN AD HOC COMPANY-GOV'T. NEGOTIATION BASIS, WITHOUT COMPETITIVE BIDDING. OIL COMPANIES, AS PART OF THE NEGOTIATION PROCEDURE, WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO PROPOSE BOUNDARIES FOR THE AREA THEY WISH TO SECURE.

3. OFFSHORE BLOCKS NUMBERS W5 AND W6 IN THE ANDAMAN SEA, SOUTHWEST OF SONGKHLA WILL ALSO BE OFFERED FOR CONCESSION ON THE BASIS OF COMPETITIVE BIDDING AFTER ABOUT ONE MONTH. BOTH OF THESE BLOCKS ARE LOCATED UNDER LESS THAN 200 METERS OF WATER. BIDDING ON BLOCKS W7 AND W8 IN THE ANDAMAN SEA UNDER MORE THAN 200 METERS OF WATER WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL BILLS INCLUDING THE MODALITIES UNDER WHICH THEY WILL BE OFFERED FOR CONCESSION ARE PASSED BY THE RTG PARLIAMENT.
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